

2nd  
Presiding  
Bishop

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### WM. MADISON WALL AND FIVE WIVES

William Madison Wall, son of Isaac Wall and Nancy Duncan, was born September 30, 1821, at Rockingham County, North Carolina. He married Nancy Haws on June 7, 1840, daughter of William Haws and Isabelle Womack of Wayne County, Illinois. William Madison died on September 18, 1869. Nancy died May 18, 1904.

He joined the LDS Church in May, 1843, in Sangamon County, Illinois. He gathered with the saints at Hancock County in the fall of the same year. He settled at Macedonia. He suffered persecution and imprisonment for his friends and the gospel.

In the early part of 1846 he, with other saints, made their way to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in 1850 he led a company of 505 wagons of saints across the plains, settling at Provo City. Here he was the first bishop of the Fourth Ward in 1852. In 1856 he went on a mission to Australia. He returned in the fall of 1857. On June 6, 1858, Brigham Young put Mr. Wall in charge of building the road through Provo Canyon. On October 13 the Deseret News reported it finished. In 1859 he, with other saints, came to Heber, where he was appointed Presiding Elder in 1860, with John M. Murdock and James Laird as counselors.

In the spring of 1862 he came to what he named Round Valley, to graze his sheep. In the summer, when he returned to Heber he sent James Gurr and his wife to Round Valley to tend his sheep.

The next spring, William M. Wall, Enoch Gurr and Dixon Greer brought their families to Round Valley to start a settlement. He was also first Presiding Elder of Round Valley, or Wallsburg, as it is now called, being named in his honor. He served as a member of the Legislature from



Wasatch County. He had five wives and 30 children. He died at Provo on September 18, 1869, and was buried in Provo City Cemetery.

Nancy Wall's children: Mary Jane, Eliza Helen, Nancy Isabelle, William Madison Jr., Isaac Oliver, Josephine Augusta,

Amasa Lyman, Juliet Wall, Bathsheba Lavinia and George Albert.

He married Elizabeth Penrod on August 6, 1852, at Salt Lake City. She was a daughter of David Penrod and Temperance Keller, born September 9, 1836, in Union County, Illinois. She died April 15, 1925, at Wallsburg.

Her children: Elizabeth Olive, David Madison, Susan Malinda, William, John Clayborn, Joseph Penrod, Temperance and Abraham.

He married Emma Ford on January 23, 1858, at Salt Lake City. She was a daughter of William Ford and Hannah Lucy Mayo, born December 6, 1834, at Chautauqua, New York. She died October 13, 1903, at Wallsburg.

Her children: William Adelbert, Emma Adelia, Rosalie, Charles Flake and Martin Ford.

He married Susannah Gurr, born August 9, 1843, in Bringilla Coverdy, Cumberland, New South Wales, Australia, on November 12, 1859, at Salt Lake City. She was a daughter of Enoch Eldredge Gurr and Ruth Buckman, and died February 19, 1908, in Salt Lake City.

Susannah's children were: Elijah, Susannah, William Peter Gurr, and Louisa.

He married Sarah Gurr, born November 22, 1844, at the same place in Australia as Susannah, a daughter of Enoch Eldredge Gurr and Ruth Buckman. She died December 24, 1924, in Salt Lake City.

Sarah's children were: Sarah Ruth, Alice and William James.

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## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### *Seek Ye First...*

Religion was the mainstay in the lives of the early settlers along Provo Valley's Snake Creek. Nearly all of them left the security of homes and opportunities in the East and in foreign lands to cast their lots with the growing Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through persecution and bitterness they had suffered in Missouri and Illinois, and now they were giving their lives to establish cities where they and their families could enjoy religious freedom.

Life was hard along Snake Creek, but never hard enough that the work couldn't be accomplished in six days of work a week. The Sabbath Day was reserved for worshipping, studying the Gospel and resting for the rigors of another week. Even before the first meeting house was built in the upper settlement in 1862 the people were meeting in each others' homes for worship services.

Just before the first meeting house was completed in July, 1862, Church authorities in the valley called Sidney H. Epperson to serve as Snake Creek's first presiding elder. He and his counselors, John Fausett and Samuel Thompson were sustained on June 26, 1862. These brethren also presided over the lower settlement until 1864 when David Van Wagonen was called as presiding elder there. His counselors were Andrew Hamilton and David Wood.

In 1866 because of Indian trouble the Saints of both settlements were advised to join ranks as one settlement in order to have the necessary strength for protection. A compromise location was chosen half way between the two settlements and the settlers, fortified in, called the site Midway.

The first step in laying out the new settlement was the survey of the townsite. Sidney H. Epperson and John Huber carried the tape, Mark Smith and Attewell Wootton, Sr., the pegs, and within a few days Midway was laid out in ample blocks with the public square in the center.

Around the central square seventy-five primitive dirt-roofed log cabins sprang into existence, some abutting against each other while in some instances strong panels of upright posts made palisades between cabins built slightly apart, the whole forming an impregnable wall around the square. Small rear windows were to serve as portholes in case of attack. The fort was conducted under military law, having officers and picket patrols, arising and doing certain work at the call of the bugler, John Watkins.

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These noble and Godfearing people now sensed the happiness of well provided security and felt they would be able to repel any attack of the Redman. Fortunately, the fort was never attacked; and when it was time to disband after a treaty had been made with the Indians and they had gone to live on reservations, most of the people decided to remain here. The upper and lower settlements were never rebuilt. The old fort was reserved by the town as a public square where meeting houses, schools, and stores were built.

Today a beautiful monument and marker erected by the Daughters of the Pioneers marks the scene and describes in a meager way the pioneering of this beautiful valley.

Under date of February 4, 1867, David F. Van Wagonen wrote from Midway that the winter had been comparatively mild with only 20 inches of snow and the thermometer only 4 degrees below zero at sunrise January 1, 1867. The health of the people was good and the past winter had not witnessed a single drunken person, nor heard of any riotous conduct in the whole valley, mainly because there were no distilleries or liquor shops.

The first grasshoppers were seen at Midway July 27, 1867.

December 29, 1867 Joseph S. Murdock was released as Presiding Bishop of Provo Valley and Abram Hatch was sustained in his place.

May 26, 1868 the first missionary from Midway, James Wooley Fisher, was set apart for a mission to Great Britain. He returned in 1869.

March 11, 1868 Sidney H. Epperson was reappointed by Bishop Abram Hatch as Presiding Elder of Midway with David F. Van Wagoner and Ira Norton Jacob as his counselors. The former counselors John Fausett and Samuel Thompson were released.

In 1868-69 a substantial rock building was erected at Midway on the southeast corner of the public square in which a good school was soon commenced. The house was built by taxation and was used for religious and other meeting purposes until 1874.

April 10, 1870 Sidney H. Epperson and counselors were released, and Henry Samuel Alexander was appointed Presiding Elder over the Midway Branch with David F. Van Wagonen and John Huber counselors.

In 1871 John Huber, the second missionary to be called from Midway, was called to the Swiss and German Mission, and Ira N. Jacob succeeded John Huber as second counselor to Henry S. Alexander. There were no further changes in the presiding officers until the organization of a ward in 1877.

In 1872 Elder George C. Lambert visited Midway, and he wrote the following interesting item which appeared in the Deseret News September 25, 1872:

"I arrived at this interesting little town last evening and contrary